

REMARKS

In checking the application document, it was noticed that numeral --33-- in Figs. 1, 4(b), 5(b) and 6(a) was incorrectly indicated as numeral "32". Therefore, the proposed drawing correction has been filed. Please approve the drawing correction.

In paragraph 1 of the Action, claim 3 was objected to. In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP '734. In paragraph 5 of the Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '734 in view of Prior Art of the Instant Application. In paragraph 6 of the Action, claims 2-5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the rejections and indication of allowability, claims 1-3 have been amended, and new claims 8-11 have been filed. Claim 2 has been amended to independent form indicated to be allowable over the prior art. Therefore, patentability of claims 1 and 9 will be explained below.

JP '734 cited in the Action includes an outer case 1, an inner case 2 slidably located in the outer case 1, and a holder 3 slidably located in the inner case 2. A projection 11 of the inner case 2 is located in an elongated hole 12 so that the inner case 2 can freely slide inside outer case 1 within a range limited by the projection 11 and hole 12. The inner case 2 has spring plates 4 engaging dents 15 of the holder 3.

When the holder 3 is pulled, the inner case 2 is pulled to an outer position from the outer case 1, and when the holder 3 is further pulled, the holder 3 is moved from the inner case 2 by deforming the spring plates 4. When the holder 3 pulled outwardly is pushed, the inner case 2 is moved inside the outer case 1 and then the holder 3 is pushed into the inner case 2.

In claim 1 of the invention, the drawer device includes a first locking member having an engaging claw pivotally supported on the inside case and urged in one direction to engage the holder main member to thereby fix the inside case to the holder main member to slide together, and releasing means for releasing the holder main member when the holder main member is pulled forward and the inside case is at the pulled-out position so that only the holder main member can slide further toward the use position.

A rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 requires every element of the claim to be included in the reference, either directly or inherently. In the present case, the engaging claw pivotally supported on the inside case as in claim 1 is not disclosed in JP '734. By at least this reason, claim 1 is patentable over JP '734.

In claim 9 of the invention, the drawer device includes locking means for selectively locking the outside case, inside case and holder main member. The locking means operates such that when the holder main member is pulled, the inside case with the holder main member therein is moved from the outside case and then the holder main member is moved forward from the inside case, and when the holder main member is retracted, the holder main member is moved into the inside case and then the inside case with the holder main member therein is moved into the outside case.

In JP '734, when the holder 3 pulled outwardly is pushed, the inner case 2 is moved inside the outer case 1 and then the holder 3 is pushed into the inner case 2. In claim 9, when the holder main member is retracted, the holder main member is moved into the inside case and then the inside case with the holder main member therein is moved into the outside case. The locking means in claim 9 is not disclosed in JP '734.

The admitted prior art discloses a holding hole and a movable member for supporting the container, but the engaging claw as

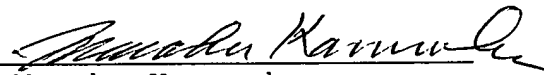
recited in claim 1 and the specific locking means as recited in claim 9 are not disclosed or suggested.

As explained above, the features now claimed in claims 1 and 9 are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references. Even if the cited references are combined, the present invention is not obvious from the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

HAUPTMAN KANESAKA BERNER
PATENT AGENTS, LLP

By 
Manabu Kanesaka
Reg. No. 31,467
Agent for Applicants

Suite 310
1700 Diagonal Road
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 519-9785

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Proposed drawing correction for Figs. 1, 4(b), 5(b) and 6(a) has been filed to correct numeral "32" to --33--.